

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 10822 211348Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /055 W

-----009807 220626Z /10

R 211156Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9034

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 10822

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OAU

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA

1. PRESIDENT KAUNDA ASKED THE ZAMBIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER
TO ARRANGE FOR ME TO MEET WITH HIM AT NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT YESTERDAY (JULY 20) AFTERNOON DURING HIS BRIEF

ONE HOUR REFUELING STOP EN ROUTE FROM KHARTOUM TO LUSAKA.
THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING, WHICH LASTED TWENTY MINUTES,
WAS TO RENEW OUR OLD ACQUAINTANCE AND HE WISHED TO EXPRESS
AGAIN HIS GRATITUDE TO ME FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
I PROVIDED TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA WHILE I WAS ASSOCIATED

WITH THE FORD FOUNDATION.

2. IN THE COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATION THE PRESIDENT INFORMED
ME THAT HE WAS QUITE SATISFIED WITH HOW THINGS WERE GOING AT
THE CURRENT OAU SUMMIT AND REGRETTED THAT HE HAD TO LEAVE
THE SUMMIT EARLY, BUT HIS DEPARTURE WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE
OF PRESSING MATTERS IN LUSAKA RELATED TO THE FORTHCOMING
ELECTIONS AND PARTY BUSINESS. HE SAID SOME VERY
IMPORTANT PRIVATE MEETINGS WERE TAKING PLACE IN KHARTOSM
AND FELT PARTICULARLY GOOD ABOUT THE MEETING BETWEEN
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NETO AND MOBUTU WHICH HE WAS CONFIDENT WOULD HAVE SOME
VERY POSITIVE RESULTS. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PRIVATE
MEETINGS ON ERITREA WERE VERY ENCOURAGING WOTHOUT
MENTIONING WHO THE PARTICIPANTS WERE OR WHAT WAS THE
PRECISE BASIS FOR HIS OPTIMISM.

3. PRESIDENT KAUNDA ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE WAS VERY

GRATEFUL FOR THE OCCASION THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES
HAD RECENTLY TO MEET AND CANDIDLY DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WITH CARL ROWAN.

4. JOSUA NKOMO WAS RETURNING FROM KHARTOUM TO LUSAKA
ON THE SAME WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA. DUE TO THE
BRIEFNESS OF OUR TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES I DID NOT HAVE
THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN ANY SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATION
WITH NKOMO.

5. ALTHOUGH THE PRESS ROOM WAS SET UP FOR A PRESS
CONFERENCE PRESIDENT KAUNDA REFUSED TO HOLD ONE SAYING
AS HE DEPARTED THE STATE LOUNGE THAT THE OAU WAS STILL
IN SESSION AND IT WOULD BE IMPOLITE TO MAKE ANY COMMNTS
UNTIL THE DELIBERATIONS ARE COMPLETE.
LE MELLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NAIROB10822
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780301-0792
Format: TEL
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780733/aaaabcch.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 00e8146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1926858
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA
TAGS: PORG, KE, ZA, OAU, (KAUNDA, KENNETH DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/00e8146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014